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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2012: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2012. It covers the activities of the Population Division on the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covers other major activities carried out by the Population Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Fertility and family planning	4
III.	Health and mortality	5
IV.	International migration	6
V.	World population projections	9
VI.	Population policies	13
VII.	Population and development	14
VIII.	Population dynamics as part of the development of a post-2015 development agenda	15
IX.	Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information	16
	A. Monitoring of population trends and policies	16
	B. Dissemination of population information and data	16
X.	Technical cooperation	17
Annex		
	Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January to 31 December 2012)	19

I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). It also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013, the objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels (see A/65/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 6). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments of the subprogramme, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) Enhanced awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, in particular in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(b) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly and the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields related to population and development, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2012, grouped by thematic area, and provides a summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division issued *World Contraceptive Use 2012*, a comprehensive data set on family planning indicators for 194 countries or territories. The data set also includes new annual, model-based estimates and short-term projections from 1990 to 2015 in order to address the considerable gaps that exist in empirical data on family planning. For example, 43 per cent of the 194 countries or territories had no data on unmet need for family planning and 65 per cent had no data on unmet need for family planning since 2005. The data set is available on CD-ROM and on the website of the Population Division (www.unpopulation.org) and is used widely by entities focused on improving reproductive health.

7. To explain this new model-based approach to family planning indicators, the Population Division produced the technical paper "National, regional and global levels and trends in contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning between 1990 and 2015: a systematic and comprehensive analysis". The paper is the first to show estimates of different family planning indicators with uncertainty intervals that enable analyses of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5: target 5.B (achieving, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health) and other international commitments to advance reproductive health. A Bayesian hierarchical model was used combined with country-specific time trends, and the model accounted for differences by data source and sample population. Globally, contraceptive prevalence increased from 54.8 per cent (95 per cent confidence interval 52.3-57.1) in 1990 to 63.3 per cent (60.4-66.0) in 2010 and unmet need for family planning declined from 15.4 per cent (14.1-16.9) in 1990 to 12.3 per cent (10.9-13.9) in 2010. Almost all subregions, except those where contraceptive prevalence was already high in 1990, had an increase in contraceptive prevalence and a decline in unmet need for family planning between 1990 and 2010. In 2010, 146 (confidence interval 130-166) million women worldwide aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union had an unmet need for family planning. The absolute number of married women who either use contraception or who have an unmet need for family planning is projected to grow from 900 (876-922) million in 2010 to 962 (927-992) million in 2015. Trends in contraceptive prevalence and unmet need for family planning and the projected growth in the number of potential contraceptive users indicate that increased investment is necessary to meet demand for contraceptive methods and improve reproductive health worldwide.

8. The Population Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health that are part of the revised framework for tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, namely, contraceptive prevalence (indicator 5.3), the adolescent birth rate (indicator 5.4) and

the unmet need for family planning (indicator 5.6). In 2012, the Division produced updated estimates for each of these indicators and metadata on definitions and methods of computation for the Millennium Development Goals database maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Population Division also collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNFPA on analysis included in the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*.

9. To build capacity to address population issues at the national level, the Population Division provided technical expertise at the July 2012 "Workshop on Millennium Development Goal Monitoring: 2015 and Beyond" organized by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank and with the involvement of experts from national statistical offices from 14 Asian countries and from UNICEF, WHO, the Statistics Division, ESCAP, UNFPA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

10. The Population Division continued to participate in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and provided input on lessons learned in monitoring indicators over time for the Expert Group's contribution on targets and indicators with respect to the post-2015 development agenda.

11. To improve the accessibility and timeliness of population information and data, the Population Division initiated work on two comprehensive data sets on fertility and nuptiality, integrated its internal fertility database with a Division-wide population database, updated an analysis of adolescent fertility and its determinants, and developed country profiles of indicators relating to childbearing, including time-series data from various sources, that will be published with a summary report on the Division's website.

III. Health and mortality

12. The Population Division released a report entitled *Changing Levels and Trends in Mortality: the role of patterns of deaths by cause*, which is aimed at describing global and regional levels and trends in life expectancy at birth and assessing the contribution of various major causes of death to differences in survival among populations. The analysis incorporates life-table values for regions representing all countries or areas in the world from the Population Division's *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*, as well as estimates of the distribution of deaths by cause from WHO's mortality estimates by cause, age and sex for the year 2008. The report provides a detailed analysis of the sex and age patterns of mortality that produce regional trends and differences in the levels of life expectancy at birth. It also contains a decomposition analysis to pinpoint the specific causes of death that are responsible for deficits in survival among populations of selected regions compared with the longest-living populations in the world.

13. The Population Division released the *World Mortality Report 2011*,[2] which provides an overview of the estimated and projected trends in mortality at the world

[2] United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/324.

level, for development groups and major areas; the analysis also focuses on country and regional data for selected mortality indicators. In addition to examining the summary indicator of life expectancy at birth, the report analyses levels and trends in mortality for key age groups in childhood and provides a snapshot of adult and "old age" mortality levels. It also revisits the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on estimated and projected mortality in the light of recent updates in HIV prevalence levels and treatment coverage. An analysis of trends in life expectancy decomposed by age group is also presented to highlight the contributions of mortality change at different ages over recent decades. Lastly, the report presents an alternative way of examining the life tables from *World Population Prospects* to understand how the survival experience of cohorts differs from the period life expectancy measure.

14. During 2012, the Population Division contributed to the work of the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4, namely, a reduction in infant and child mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. The Inter-agency Group is led by UNICEF, with WHO, the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provides input for updating the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF and for reviewing final estimates. Special contributions were made in 2012 to incorporate estimates by sex. The Division also assisted in preparing *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2012*.[3]

15. The Population Division released two population fact sheets relating to mortality issues or survival prospects. The first, entitled *Population Ageing and the Non-communicable Diseases* (*Population Facts* No. 2012/1), demonstrates that differences in population age structure mask the disproportionately high risks of non-communicable disease mortality experienced in the developing regions; it also illustrates that population growth and population ageing will drive future increases in the burden of mortality owing to non-communicable diseases. The second fact sheet, entitled *Towards global equity in longevity* (*Population Facts* No. 2012/2), provides an overview of inequalities in survival prospects across regions of the world; and explores the role of different groups of causes of death in the observed gaps in survival prospects, pointing out that as life expectancy increases, communicable diseases account for a declining share of the gaps in longevity, while the share owing to non-communicable diseases grows.

IV. International migration

16. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly (A/67/254). According to the report, out of the 214 million international migrants living in the world today, some 150 million originate in the global South. Of these, about half, or 73 million, reside in the South, while 74 million live in the North. The report noted that the full benefits of migration can be reaped only if the rights of migrants are upheld and that the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development presents an opportunity to accelerate the ratification and promote the implementation of international instruments related to international migration. It stated that while evidence-based policymaking and informed public

[3] Available from http://www.childinfo.org/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2012.pdf.

debate require timely, reliable and easily accessible data, preliminary evidence from the 2010 round of censuses indicate that the reporting of migration data has not significantly improved during the past 10 years. The report presented recent examples of inter-agency coordination activities on international migration, including the Population Division's annual coordination meeting, and found that the Global Migration Group has added value to the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The report also included detailed proposals for the preparation and organization of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development presented the report to the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 18 October 2012.

17. At the request of the Bureau of the Second Committee, the Population Division organized a panel discussion on "Migration and development: causes and impacts" on 15 November 2012. The panel, featuring five migration experts from Government, civil society, academia and the private sector, was moderated by the Chair of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova. The event provided a useful opportunity for Member States to debate, in an interactive fashion, the linkages between migration and development, and to identify best practices and lessons learned on how to harness the benefits of international migration, while minimizing its negative impacts.

18. The Population Division organized two briefings for Member States, both of which were well attended. The first briefing, held on 14 September, focused on the findings and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development. The second briefing was held on 18 December in commemoration of International Migrants Day. This briefing featured presentations by the Population Division (on the preparations for the High-level Dialogue), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (on the achievements of the Global Migration Group between July and December 2012), the regional commissions (on planned activities of the Global Migration Group in the first half of 2013) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (on its inputs to the preparatory process of the 2013 High-level Dialogue). Further, the Division created a dedicated website for the organization and preparation of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. On 12 October, the Division organized, in collaboration with UNFPA and IOM, the first of five preparatory meetings for the High-level Dialogue. This meeting, "The global migration debate: From the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development to the present", featured a presentation by the Population Division on international migration and the United Nations development agenda.

19. In response to General Assembly resolution 58/208, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue convening meetings to coordinate international migration activities, the Population Division organized the tenth coordination meeting on international migration in New York on 9 and 10 February 2012.[4] The meeting brought together about 140 participants, the highest attendance since its inception, representing United Nations system entities, other relevant intergovernmental organizations, Member States and civil society. The objectives of the meeting were to (a) brief participants on the 2011 and 2012 Global Forum

[4] See http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/tenthcoord2012/tenthcoord2012.htm.

meetings; (b) discuss the contributions of relevant entities of the United Nations system and other organizations to the preparations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue; (c) present the latest evidence in the field of international migration and development; and (d) allow international organizations to exchange information on current activities and to present major new initiatives in the area of international migration. By bringing together entities of the United Nations system, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and civil society, the coordination meeting provided a unique opportunity to enhance inter-agency coherence in response to the growing demand from Member States for activities and support on issues relating to multidimensional aspects of international migration and development. The contributions to the coordination meeting contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

20. In preparation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Division organized an expert group meeting on "New trends in migration: demographic aspects", which was held in New York on 3 December 2012.[5] The experts addressed internal and international migration levels and trends with an emphasis on new trends and their relevance for development. Presentations focused on specific regions and population groups, including women and children. The meeting attracted some 60 representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations. The meeting was webcast live and later posted on the Division's website.

21. In response to a growing demand for disaggregated migration data, the Population Division produced estimates of the international migration stock by destination and origin for 230 countries or areas in the world as at 1 July of 1990, 2000 and 2010. This work was supported by a grant from UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The estimates indicate that virtually all countries have become simultaneously countries of destination and origin. Further, South-South migration is almost as common as South-North migration. The data set, accompanied by documentation, including a methodological note, is available on CD-ROM and accessible through a web-based database.[6]

22. The Division prepared a fact sheet (*Population Facts* No. 2012/3) entitled *Migrants by origin and destination: The role of South-South migration*.[7] The fact sheet documented that, although South-South migration is almost as common as South-North migration, South-North migration is the main driver of global migration. While the majority of the world's refugees are hosted by countries in the South, they generally constitute a small fraction of the total migrant stock.

23. The Population Division continued to collaborate in various activities of the Global Migration Group. In particular, it contributed to a joint Global Migration Group publication on adolescents, youth and migration, with a chapter on overall trends in migration among adolescents and youth at the global level, including a review of the main drivers for their movements. The chapter also discussed data availability and definitional issues relating to the topic. The Division also

[5] See http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGM_MigrationTrends/MigrationTrends.html.

[6] Available from http://esa.un.org/MigOrigin/.

[7] Available from http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/popfacts/popfacts_2012-3_South-South_migration.pdf.

contributed to a system-wide background paper on initiatives and experiences on international migration and development since the first High-level Dialogue, for submission to the 2013 spring session of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). In addition, the Division participated in an internal review of the activities of the Global Migration Group, with a view to making recommendations for robust inter-agency support on migration.

24. The Population Division continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who acts as the main link between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations. The Division also participated in various activities organized by the Global Forum. This work was funded through a grant provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

25. The website www.unmigration.org remained the main platform from which information, data and analysis pertaining to migration-related activities of the Division were distributed to the public. The website provides access to the Division's latest data on international migration and related publications as well as links to the annual coordination meeting websites and other Population Division meetings on international migration. It also serves as a portal to international migration activities of the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

V. World population projections

26. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas in the world is a key part of the work of the Population Division. The results of this activity are used throughout the United Nations system by all entities requiring population data. In addition, the official United Nations population estimates and projections are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible on the Internet, including the World Development Indicators database maintained by the World Bank, the data portal of the United Nations, UNDATA, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by FAO. The Population Division also makes the data available through its website.

27. In 2012, the Population Division issued the results of *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision*. The *2011 Revision* presents estimates and projections of urban and rural populations for 233 countries and areas (including South Sudan), as well as major urban agglomerations. *World Urbanization Prospects* is the only global data set with estimates and projections for urban areas and urban agglomerations, and these are used widely throughout the United Nations system and beyond. Outputs presenting the results of the *2011 Revision* include an interactive online database[8] accessible through the Division's website, a CD-ROM,[9]

[8] See http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/unup/.

[9] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision, CD-ROM Edition: Comprehensive Data set in digital form*: Data Set 1: Urban and Rural Areas, Data Set 2: Urban Agglomerations (United Nations publication, Sales No. 12.XIII.5).

two wallcharts[10] and a working paper presenting the highlights[11] of the *2011 Revision*. In preparing the *2011 Revision*, particular attention was given to the production of detailed documentation on the data sources and definitions used at the country level, as well as for cities and urban agglomerations. The full metadata compiled in this regard are accessible on the Population Division's website.[12] The site also includes useful analytical figures and maps illustrating the results obtained, introduces new visual country profiles and provides geographical coordinates and Geographic Information System (GIS) layers for capital cities and urban agglomerations with 750,000 inhabitants or more in 2011.

28. As reported in previous revisions, more than half the world population lives in urban areas. Nevertheless, not all regions of the world have reached this level of urbanization. According to the *2011 Revision*, it is expected that half the population of Asia will live in urban areas by 2020, while Africa is likely to reach a 50 per cent urbanization rate only in 2035.

29. Between 2011 and 2050, the world population is expected to increase by 2.3 billion, rising from 7.0 billion to 9.3 billion. At the same time, the population living in urban areas is projected to increase by 2.6 billion, rising from 3.6 billion in 2011 to 6.3 billion in 2050. Thus, the urban areas of the world are expected to absorb all the population growth expected over the next four decades while at the same time drawing in some of the rural population. As a result, the world rural population is projected to start decreasing in about a decade and there will likely be 0.3 billion fewer rural inhabitants in 2050 than today. Furthermore, most of the population growth expected in urban areas will be concentrated in the cities and towns of the less developed regions. Asia, in particular, is projected to see its urban population increase by 1.4 billion, Africa by 0.9 billion, and Latin America and the Caribbean by 0.2 billion. Population growth is therefore becoming largely an urban phenomenon concentrated in the developing world.

30. Realization of these projections is contingent on the continuation of fertility reductions in the developing world. If fertility were to remain constant at the current levels and the pace of urbanization remained as projected in the *2011 Revision*, the world urban population would increase to 7.4 billion by 2050 instead of the 6.3 billion expected when fertility is assumed to continue declining in all developing regions. In many countries, natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) accounts for 60 per cent or more of urban population growth. Consequently, policies that facilitate the reduction of fertility by ensuring that couples have access to modern contraception and can decide freely the number of children they desire can contribute to moderate increases in the number of urban dwellers, thereby making it easier for developing countries to adjust to the transformations associated with growing urbanization.

31. For the first time, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision* includes geographical coordinates for all 633 cities with more than 750,000 inhabitants. This will allow researchers to link estimates and projections of the population in urban agglomerations to various environmental characteristics, such as proximity to coastal areas, earthquake faults or climate zones. An initial analysis conducted by

[10] See *Urban and Rural Areas 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIII.4) and *Urban Agglomerations 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIII.3).

[11] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision: Highlights* (ESA/P/WP/224).

[12] See http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/CD-ROM/Data-Sources.htm.

the Division classified the most populous cities by their risk of exposure to various natural hazards using a spatial database on natural hazards prepared by the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia University;[13] the analysis revealed that among 450 urban areas with 1 million or more inhabitants in 2011 (representing 1.4 billion people), 60 per cent, or about 890 million people, are located in regions exposed to at least one major risk of natural disaster. Major cities in Europe and Africa are the least exposed overall. Only 26 per cent and 37 per cent of their cities with one million inhabitants or more are living in regions exposed to at least one major risk of natural disaster. However, cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Northern America, and especially in Asia are often located in regions exposed to natural hazards.

32. In order to respond to requests for stochastic population projections incorporating uncertainty in future trends in fertility and mortality, the Population Division pursued its collaboration with the University of Washington to further develop the methodology used to produce stochastic population projections at the country level,[14] and prepared a new set of probabilistic projections to 2100 consistent with *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision* for the fertility assumption. However, unlike the *2010 Revision*, which projected mortality deterministically, this set of projections also includes stochastic projections of life expectancy for all countries without generalized HIV epidemic. The summary results of these probabilistic projections are presented on a special website and on CD-ROM.[15] They include both the 80 per cent and 95 per cent prediction intervals in addition to the median illustrating the effects on population growth and structure of different probabilities on the future course of fertility and mortality. The results are presented in figures as well as data tables in Excel format.

33. A key result of the probabilistic projections is the divergence in uncertainty between projections for less and least developed countries on the one hand and for countries in more developed regions on the other. Projections for the first group of countries usually have high uncertainty; the 90 per cent confidence interval, and sometimes even the 80 per cent confidence interval, are often wider than the high and low variants of the deterministic projections. This can be observed for all calculated demographic indicators, including the total population and the population of selected age groups, and for the dependency ratios. Projections for more developed countries, on the other hand, have much lower uncertainty. The 80 per cent and 90 per cent confidence intervals are usually smaller than the high and low variants used in the traditional deterministic projections. This indicates that the projected ageing, and sometimes decline, of the population in Eastern Europe is almost certain. However, countries in Africa with still relatively high fertility and mortality have an uncertain demographic future: their population might increase

[13] See Natural Disaster Hotspots: A Global Risk Analysis (Dilley et al., 2005) jointly produced by the Center for Hazards and Risk Research, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, and the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University, and the Hazard Management Unit and the Development Economics Research Group at the World Bank. Available from http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/chrr/research/hotspots/.

[14] See A.E. Raftery, N. Li, H. Ševčíková, P. Gerland and G.K. Heilig, "Bayesian probabilistic population projections for all countries", *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 109, No. 35, pp. 13915-13921 (2012).

[15] *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. Probabilistic Projections* (CD-ROM) (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.A/325).

much more than predicted by the high variant of the deterministic projections. The probabilistic projections are part of the Division's ongoing research activities to ensure that the methodology applied in *World Population Prospects* is at the highest professional standard of demography.

34. During 2012, the Population Division worked on the preparation of *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*, which is expected to be released in the first half of 2013. Estimates and projections for 233 countries and areas and more than 60 regions are being produced. The *2012 Revision* will incorporate the results of the 2010 census round for a substantial number of countries, and its projected fertility and mortality (in the absence of high HIV/AIDS mortality) will be based on a Bayesian hierarchical model that uses past trends in all countries or areas and the past experience of each area to generate future paths of fertility change[16] or mortality improvement.[17]

35. WHO renewed its endorsement of the Division's mortality estimates for countries lacking nationally representative vital registration and expressed interest in strengthening the existing partnership to improve evidence-based estimates of overall mortality used to derive annual abridged life tables for all countries. The Division also continued collaborative work with the University of Washington on improving the methodology for the preparation of stochastic reconstruction of past populations and estimation of demographic parameters with uncertainty[18] and on probabilistic population projections based on a Bayesian approach, as well as with the University of Singapore on improving the methodology for the projection of populations in urban and rural places and in cities.[19] New collaboration was initiated with the Futures Institute and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to improve the modelling of overall mortality for all countries in future revisions of Spectrum software (used by UNAIDS to produce national HIV/AIDS country estimates); with the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Singapore on modelling the age pattern of mortality for under-five mortality;[20] and the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, on improving the estimation of adult mortality in sub-Saharan Africa derived from siblings and

[16] See L. Alkema, A. Raftery, P. Gerland, S. Clark, F. Pelletier, T. Buettner and G. Heilig, "Probabilistic Projections of the Total Fertility Rate for All Countries", *Demography*, vol. 48, No. 3, pp. 815-839 (2011).

[17] See J. L. Chunn, A. E. Raftery and P. Gerland, "Bayesian Probabilistic Projections of Life Expectancy for All Countries", Working Paper No. 105, edited by the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington (2010) and *Demography*, forthcoming; A. E. Raftery and N. Lalic, "Joint Probabilistic Projection of Female and Male Life Expectancy", Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco, USA (2012).

[18] M. C. Wheldon, A. E. Raftery, S. J. Clark and P. Gerland, "Reconstructing Population Dynamics of the Recent Past, with Uncertainty, from Fragmentary Data", Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco, USA (2012); L. Alkema, A. Raftery, P. Gerland, S. J. Clark and F. Pelletier, "Estimating Trends in the Total Fertility Rate with Uncertainty Using Imperfect Data: Examples from West Africa", *Demographic Research*, vol. 26, No. 15, pp. 331-362 (2012).

[19] L. Alkema, J. L. Chunn, P. Gerland, D. Gu and G. K. Heilig, "Bayesian Population Projections for Every City in the World", Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco, USA (2012).

[20] M. Guillot, P. Gerland, F. Pelletier and A. Saabneh, "Child Mortality Estimation: A Global Overview of Infant and Child Mortality Age Patterns in Light of New Empirical Data", *PLOS Med*, vol. 9, No. 8 (2012).

orphanhood data. Lastly, work continued on the development of a database containing all available statistics relevant for the preparation of national population estimates and projections.

VI. Population policies

36. In 2012, the Division completed updating country information on Government views and policies on population-related topics and prepared the *World Population Policies 2011* report. Issued every two years, *World Population Policies* is the most comprehensive overview of population-related policies for all Member States and thus an essential tool for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and other related internationally agreed development goals. For the last revision, several new policy variables were added to the database covered under the following themes: population size and growth, population age structure, fertility, reproductive health and family planning, health and mortality, spatial distribution and internal migration and international migration.

37. Over the years, the Division has accumulated a wealth of information on a wide range of population policies. However, the electronic storage and organization of those resources has been limited, thus restricting the utilization of the information. In order to improve access to such resources, the Division developed a new database to organize and store the available information, with a view to making it more easily accessible and amenable to analysis. In the past year, the new database software was tested and modified while working on updating country information on Government views and policies.

38. The Division prepared a wallchart entitled *International Migration Policies 2013*, which provides up-to-date information on Government views and policies on international migration issues, including immigration, emigration, naturalization and integration of migrants, for the 193 Member and 2 non-member States of the United Nations. The wallchart also provides specific measures adopted to increase investment by the diaspora. In addition, it includes information on estimates of migrant stocks, share of women among international migrants, net migration rates and remittances.

39. The Division also prepared a wallchart entitled *World Abortion Policies 2013*, which provides up-to-date and objective information on abortion policies, namely, the legal grounds on which induced abortion is permitted, for each of the 193 Member and 2 non-member States of the United Nations. The wallchart includes information on seven legal grounds, specifically: (a) to save a woman's life; (b) to preserve a woman's physical health; (c) to preserve a woman's mental health; (d) in case of rape or incest; (e) foetal impairment; (f) economic or social reasons and (g) on request. The wallchart also includes information on national estimates of induced abortion rate, fertility rate, maternal mortality ratio, level of contraceptive use, unmet need for family planning and Government support for family planning, as well as regional estimates of unsafe abortion.

40. As part of its monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed development goals, in 2008, the Division launched the tenth United Nations inquiry among Governments on population and development.

Between 1963 and 2003, nine inquiries among Governments were conducted. These surveys record Government views and policies on various key aspects of population and development and are a unique tool for documenting how such views and policies have changed over the last half-century. The tenth inquiry was distributed to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and was made available in printed form, electronically and via the Internet, with a view to facilitating the work of Member States in replying to the survey. As at December 2012, only 49 countries (25 per cent of all Member States) had responded to the inquiry despite repeated efforts to obtain responses. The results of the inquiry have been incorporated into the biennial revisions of *World Population Policies*. In 2012, the Division also started planning for the revision of the tools and the implementation mechanism for the eleventh inquiry, which is due to be launched in the fall of 2013. In addition, throughout the year, staff from the Population Division provided technical support to UNFPA on the operational review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/234.

VII. Population and development

41. The Population Division contributed substantive inputs and most of the demographic data used for the publication *Ageing in the 21st century: A celebration and a challenge*,[21] edited by UNFPA and HelpAge International, in collaboration with numerous United Nations entities, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The publication was launched on 1 October 2012, on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons. The year 2012 is especially significant because it marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid in 2002. The report noted that the population of older persons in the world, which numbered 810 million in 2012, is growing faster than other age groups and is thereby increasing its proportionate weight in the total population of most countries. The report observed that ageing, one of the most significant trends of the twenty-first century, brings opportunities for society but also challenges that need to be confronted in the areas of income security, health care, and enabling environments for older persons.

42. Also in the area of ageing, the Population Division published a policy brief entitled *Population ageing and development: Ten years after Madrid*,[22] and a wallchart entitled *Population Ageing and Development 2012*.[23] The policy brief on ageing highlights the demographic trends pertaining to ageing in different regions of the world, the many benefits that ageing brings to individuals and societies in terms of longer lives, the economic contributions of older persons to their families and aggregate production, and the challenges of providing adequate social protection in ageing societies. The wallchart on *Population Ageing and Development 2012* presents the latest available data on 16 indicators, including demographic, social and

[21] Also available from http://unfpa.org/ageingreport/.

[22] *Population Facts* No. 2012/4, December 2012. Available online as a pdf document from http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/popfacts/popfacts_2012-4.pdf.

[23] Available online as a pdf document from http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/2012PopAgeingDev_Chart/2012PopAgeingandDev_WallChart.pdf.

economic characteristics of the older population at the national, regional and world levels. It also contains illustrative maps and graphs, along with brief explanatory texts of selected regional and global trends on ageing and development. Some of the most salient points represented in the wallchart are the increasing number and global share of older people in the less developed countries, from two thirds of the world's older population today to a projected 8 out of 10 in 2050; the greater prevalence of older persons living independently as countries develop and become more aged; and the low old-age support ratios in ageing populations, particularly in Japan and in many European countries.

43. In connection with adolescents and youth, the theme of the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division published the report on the expert group meeting on adolescents, youth and development and two edited papers by experts who participated in the meeting, additional to the four expert papers from the meeting published in 2011. The report[24] includes a summary of the presentations and discussions of the various topics covered in the meeting, namely, the demographic dynamics of adolescents and youth, including fertility and family formation, youth health and mortality; sex education and family planning for young people; and youth and socioeconomic development, including education, employment, transition to adulthood, economic independence and intergenerational issues relating to youth.

44. The Population Division worked on updating and revising the estimates of the urban and rural population by age and sex for all countries in the world with a population of 300,000 or more in 2010, incorporating recently available data from the 2010 round of censuses and an improved database and user interface. This work builds on the first edition of such estimates produced by the Population Division in 2008;[25] the plan is to finalize and disseminate in 2013 the revised database with estimates up to 2010 in a CD-ROM and also as an interactive database in the Population Division's new website.

VIII. Population dynamics as part of the development of a post-2015 development agenda

45. Building on the release of the report of the United Nations system task team on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, entitled *Realizing the Future We Want for All: Report to the Secretary-General*, the United Nations Development Group initiated a series of thematic and national consultations, including a consultation on population dynamics that seeks to achieve a broad-based consensus on how population issues should best be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. The consultation is being co-led by the Governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh as well as by UNFPA, the Population Division, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and IOM on behalf of the international agencies. UNDP, other parts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNAIDS, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High

[24] ESA/P/WP/225; also available online as a pdf document from http://tinyurl.com/aqhcnc7.

[25] See POP/DB/PD/URPAS/2008.

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ILO, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) are also involved in the consultation in some capacity.

46. The global consultation involves an ongoing e-consultation on population dynamics, including focused discussions on high fertility and population growth, low fertility and population ageing, internal and international migration, and urbanization, as well as a series of face-to-face consultations. A consultation with leading academics was held in New York on 19 and 20 November 2012 and another was held with the private sector in New York on 23 January 2013. A consultation with civil society is scheduled for 18 and 19 February 2013 in Geneva. The global leadership meeting, which will take place in Dhaka on 12 and 13 March 2013, will conclude the global thematic consultation. In addition, representatives of the Governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh and lead agencies met for a discussion with delegations of Member States in New York on 22 January and will be meeting with delegations of Member States in Geneva on 22 February.

47. To date, these consultations have resulted in an authoritative first report by participants in the first expert meeting on population dynamics and the post-2015 development agenda. A final report on why and how population dynamics should be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda will be published after the conclusion of the consultative process.

IX. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

48. The report of the Secretary-General on the annual theme of the session of the Commission on Population and Development is prepared by the Population Division. In 2012, the Division presented the report on Adolescents and youth (E/CN.9/2012/4) at the forty-fifth session of the Commission and initiated work on the report of the Secretary-General for the forty-sixth session on New trends in migration: demographic aspects (E/CN.9/2013/3).

B. Dissemination of population information and data

49. During 2012, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website (www.unpopulation.org) in order to provide access to timely population information to Government officials and civil society. The website contains most of the publications issued by the Division, which are often posted well in advance of their availability in printed form. In addition, the website contains items that are available only via the Internet, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings and interactive databases. The site also contains a full collection of the documents and statements considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its various sessions. Traffic statistics indicate that in 2012 the Division's website had about 1.5 million visits, excluding traffic generated by the interactive databases, which amounted to an additional 620,000 visits.

50. The Population Division also maintains a website focusing exclusively on international migration (www.unmigration.org). This website serves as a portal with links to the numerous international migration activities closely related to the work

of the Population Division, both within and outside the United Nations system. In particular, it includes links and references to the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Migration Group.

51. The Population Division upgraded its e-mail announcement service, which is used to alert subscribers to important news, events and developments concerning the Division's activities. The service currently has some 2,500 subscribers from all over the world. In addition, information on the Division's activities as well as publications of particular relevance to developing countries are distributed regularly to persons and institutions included in various mailing lists.

52. MORTPAK for Windows, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, continues to be distributed among analysts, including those in developing countries, who use it for teaching or research purposes. Various institutions, in particular the United States Census Bureau, regularly feature it in their own training workshops for statisticians and demographers from developing countries.

53. Staff from the Population Division routinely participate (occasionally as session organizers or discussants) in meetings of population-related professional associations, which are a natural vehicle for dissemination of the Division's work in academic circles. In 2012, the Division had its work presented at meetings of the Population Association of America, the Association of American Geographers, the German Society for Demography and the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

X. Technical cooperation

54. The focus of the Population Division's technical cooperation activities is on building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse the demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy. Such activities are currently funded by the Development Account and extrabudgetary resources.

55. The Population Division made significant progress in the implementation of its project on "Strengthening capacity of national policy analysts in the social and economic sectors of developing countries in the production and use of national transfer accounts". In particular, two training workshops were organized and serviced in collaboration with the relevant regional commissions: an introductory workshop for national professionals from Jordan and the State of Palestine, held in Amman from 23 to 26 July 2012,[26] and an interregional workshop for national professionals from Argentina, China, El Salvador, Jordan, the State of Palestine and Thailand, held in Bangkok from 17 to 20 September 2012.[27] The draft of a technical manual on national transfer accounts was completed; the project will conclude in 2013 with the publication of the manual, which is expected to serve in years to come as reference and training material to assist national professionals in the production and use of the transfer accounts for policy analyses pertaining to the present and projected population by age.

[26] See http://ntaccounts.org/web/nta/show/Documents/Meetings/Amman%20Workshop%202012.

[27] http://www.unescap.org/stat/nl/nl-Q3-2012.asp#NTA_Bangkok.

56. The Population Division also collaborated with the Statistics Division and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in organizing a subregional workshop on the evaluation of census data, held in Kampala from 12 to 16 November 2012. The workshop was attended by representatives from the national statistical offices of 20 English-speaking countries in Africa directly involved in the preparation and analysis of population data. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen the technical capacity of the participating countries to evaluate the quality of census data based on the application of demographic techniques and through comparisons with other data sources such as previous censuses, sample surveys and administrative registers. Participants were introduced to the methods of census evaluation, in particular, evaluation of age and sex structure, fertility, child mortality, adult mortality, data from consecutive censuses, the cohort-component framework, and socioeconomic data collected from censuses. Training was also provided on how to use available software for demographic analysis, including MORTPAK.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January to 31 December 2012)[a]

Expert group meetings

Tenth coordination meeting on international migration, New York, 9 and 10 February 2012

Expert group meeting on New trends in migration: demographic aspects, New York, 3 December 2012

Research studies

Changing Levels and Trends in Mortality: the role of patterns of death by cause (ST/ESA/SER.A/318)

World Mortality Report 2011 (ST/ESA/SER.A/324)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision: Highlights (web version) (http://tinyurl.com/bykyqsk)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision: Methodology (web version) (http://tinyurl.com/a678hrx)

Databases

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision (web database) (http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision: Comprehensive data set in digital form (CD-ROM) (POP/DB/WUP/Rev. 2011)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision: Data sources/statistical concepts (web database) (http://tinyurl.com/b8vhukm)

Probabilistic population projections by country based on World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision (http://esa.un.org/unpd/ppp/index.htm)

Global Migration Database 2012 (web database) (http://esa.un.org/unmigration/)

2012 Update for the MDG Database: Contraceptive Prevalence (http://tinyurl.com/agwtz2w)

2012 Update for the MDG Database: Unmet Need for Family Planning (http://tinyurl.com/axbn8e9)

2012 Update for the MDG Database: Adolescent Birth Rate (http://tinyurl.com/bdkzkpx)

World Contraceptive Use 2012 (CD-ROM) (POP/DB/CP/Rev. 2012)

[a] Excluding reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

Wallcharts

Population Ageing and Development 2012 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIII.6)

Urban Agglomerations 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIII.3)

Urban and Rural Areas 2011 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XIII.4)

Policy briefs

Population Ageing and the Non-communicable Diseases. Population Facts, No. 2012/1

Towards global equity in longevity. Population Facts, No. 2012/2

Migrants by origin and destination: The role of South-South migration. Population Facts, No. 2012/3

Population ageing and development: Ten years after Madrid. Population Facts, No. 2012/4